

49ERS

REPORT



Victory Streak Halted

Vikings Win NFC Central At Niners' Expense

**Edward J.
DeBartolo Sr.**

1909-1994

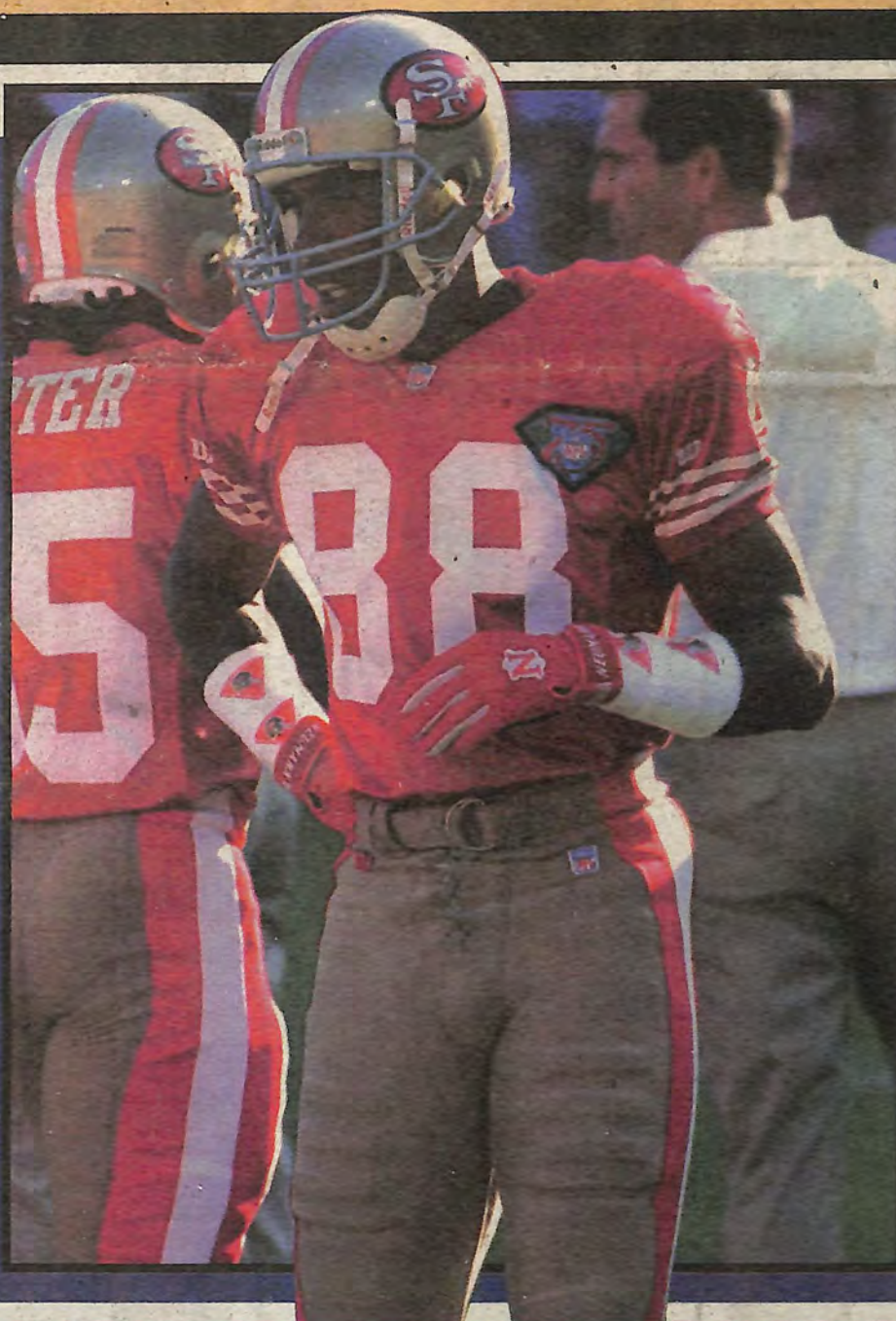
Poster Shot
Doug Brien

... Page 11

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FROM THE EDITOR

KEVIN
LYNCH

GEORGE'S BAILIWICK

Niners coach George Seifert cuts a fatherly image these days. Gone is the greased-back pseudo Michael Douglas hairstyle.

Arrived is a wit so dry it feels like a desert breeze. Seifert kept it buried in his first few seasons.

Seifert will even unearth some old phrases, just like

"dear old dad" used to say. "This is my bailiwick," Seifert has said more than once. It's another way of saying, "This is my responsibility." He will even laughingly refer to himself as coming from the era of "wooden ships and iron men."

Seifert's relationship with the Bay Area fans has gone through some fatherly transformations. At first, he could do no wrong. He had taken over from Bill Walsh after Walsh, and three Super Bowl titles he directed, left in 1989.

AS WALSH SOON would say, the Niners "thrived" under Seifert. He did something few coaches before had done — keep a successful franchise successful. In his first season the 49ers went 14-2, then blasted the Broncos 55-10 in Super Bowl XXIV.

The 49ers were coming off a championship season, but struggled in 1988. They went 10-6 and needed a Joe Montana-to-John Taylor touchdown pass to steal away victory from the Bengals in the Super Bowl.

Seifert loosened the reins ever so slightly. Players began feeling comfortable wearing earrings and lycra, something they wouldn't do under Walsh. Seifert told players THEY were the ones who made the team win. Without their talent the 49ers would stagnate.

It was a different message from Walsh and his insinuation that his schemes were what made the team go. Players were just pieces to be plugged in.

THE FANS WERE going through the adoration stage with Seifert. It was as if he wore a cape around his shoulders everywhere he went. Kids go through a similar stage with their fathers. Whether he's a sewer worker or a corporate CEO, dad's the strongest, smartest, biggest guy ever placed on the planet.

Of course, this stage is followed by another equally as powerful — the dad-can't-get-anything-right stage, in which everything he says and does is infuriating. A simple request to take out the trash sounds like fingernails on the chalkboard.

Impatient fans and media went through this stage with George, too. Seifert tried to take control of the offense in 1991 when quarterbacks Joe Montana and Steve Young were hurt. He restricted it and squeezed the life out of it, leaving third-stringer Steve Bono very little to work with. In Bono's first game as a starter the 49ers lost 10-3 to the Saints.

Seifert later realized he had to open the offense and Bono responded, rattling off five victories in a row. Seifert a year later dumped Charles Haley, possibly the 49ers' best defensive player at the time. He let him slip away to the Cowboys, for essentially a second-round draft choice. Of course, Haley became the final piece in the Cowboys' Super Bowl puzzle.

THERE WERE ALSO some questionable drafts. Can somebody say, "Ted Washington?" Seifert was getting labeled.

"Seifert can't deal with problem players," or, "Seifert doesn't have Walsh's drafting touch" were some remarks heard. Critics descended on him like the 82nd Airborne.

Now, nearly at the end of his sixth season, we have a more balanced view of Seifert. Sure, he has made mistakes. But

he's also compiled the highest winning percentage of any active coach in NFL history.

He has missed on some draft choices, but hit on many others. Names like Dana Stubblefield, Ricky Watters, Bryant Young, Lee Woodall and Merton Hanks are just a few that come to mind. He made the decision to hire Mike Shanahan as offensive coordinator, and to bring back Ray Rhodes as defensive coordinator. Seifert can't be all bad.

Seifert's major strength, and his tragic flaw, is his commitment. He had trouble letting go of players who were past their primes at first — like Eric Wright and Ronnie Lott — players whose coverage skills waned (a no-no in the 49ers' defense).

HE WAS COMMITTED to making '92 first-round draft choice Dana Hall a star safety. He might have stayed with Hall too long.

On the other hand, he stayed committed to Watters, who broke an ankle in his rookie season during the second day of summer training camp. A broken hand in practice followed.

Watters had never been injured before. He didn't react well to it, and didn't ingratiate himself to many of his teammates. Offensive tackle Harris Barton said he thought Watters would be a bust.

Far from it. He's been the 49ers' main ball carrier for the last three seasons and has already chalked up a 1,000-yard rushing season and secured two Pro Bowl invites.

Seifert's right now sticking by defensive end Dennis Brown, who has struggled after losing 70 pounds in the off-season. Brown made the commitment to the 49ers by losing the weight, and Seifert is going to let him play into his new body. Brown finished the season with three sacks in the last two games.

While Seifert has his flaws, one thing's for sure — coaching is his bailiwick. ☺

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49ERS

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THE NINERS TOOK ON 'SENIOR'S' PERSONALITY

Even without much direct influence, Edward J. DeBartolo Sr. helped fashion the personality of the 49ers.

Mr. DeBartolo allowed his son, Edward Jr., to guide the team, when Eddie bought it in 1977.

"He was always so proud of Eddie," club vice president John McVay said shortly after a private memorial service last Wednesday. Mr. DeBartolo died on Dec. 19 from complications of pneumonia. He was 85.

SENIOR, AS HE WAS KNOWN around the 49ers, rarely made appearances with the team, but kept a close watch on it.

Personnel Director Dwight Clark remembers a time he was called to Youngstown, Ohio, (home of the DeBartolo family and headquarters of the DeBartolo Corp.) by Mr. DeBartolo. Clark said he was scared to death. When he was called into Mr. DeBartolo's office, he was amazed by how much Mr. DeBartolo knew about the Niners. It was right after the 1982 season, the only losing year the club has experienced in the last 15 seasons. DeBartolo Sr. told Clark that certain players needed to straighten up.

McVay never forgot the first time he met Mr. DeBartolo. It was shortly after he was hired in 1979 and a minicamp was being held.

"We were just looking for bodies," McVay said.

Players were yelling and laughing in the locker room after practice. The doors opened and Mr. DeBartolo entered.

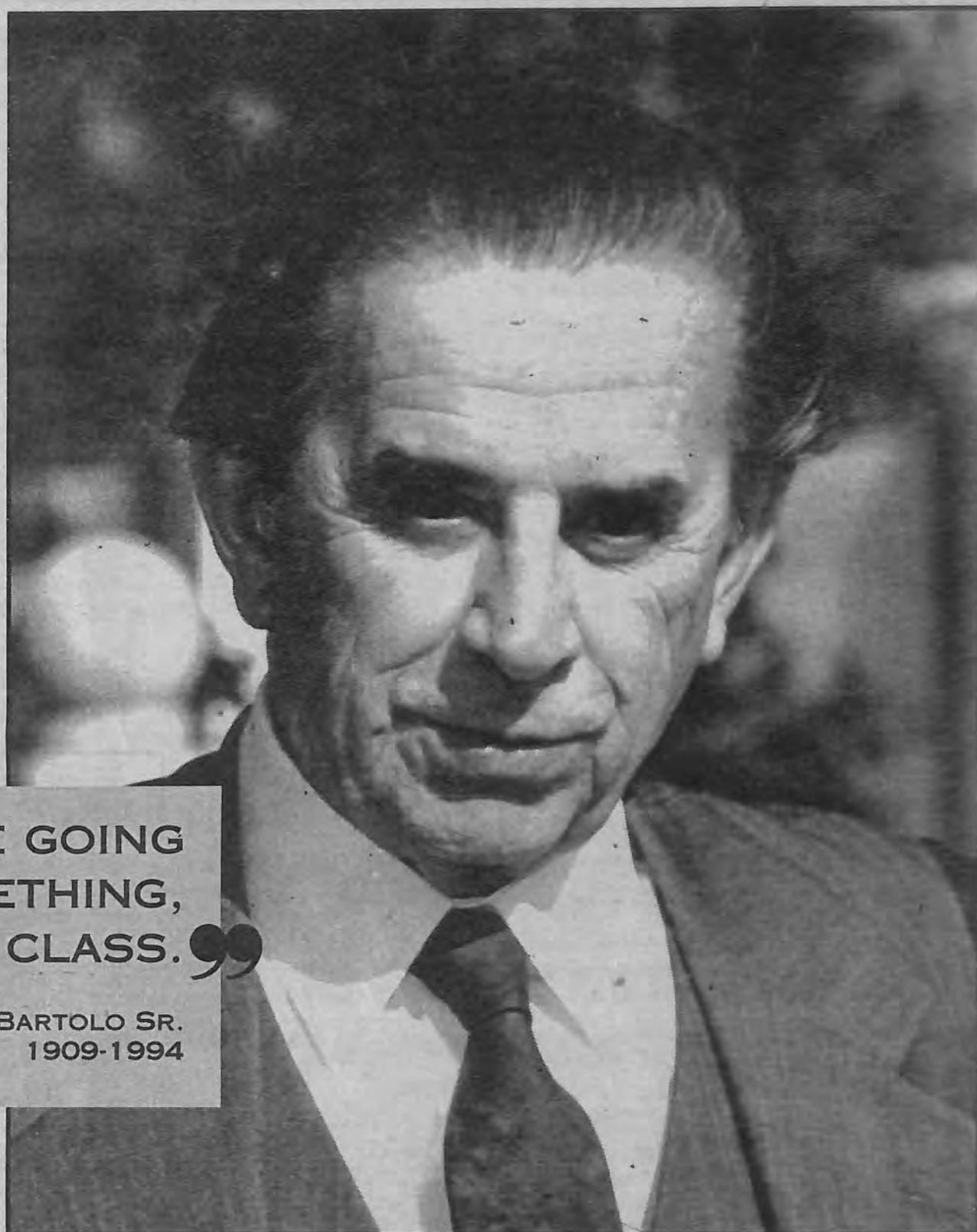
"He was wearing a three-piece suit and a topcoat," McVay said. "The whole place just stopped. You could've heard a pin drop. No one even knew who he was. He exuded success. I don't know if it was presence or charisma or what. Whatever it was, he had it."

DeBartolo was the largest shopping mall developer in the world. He built his corporation into a billion-dollar business during a building boom following World War II. He saw the possibilities in developing the suburbs in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. The DeBartolo Corp. constructed more than 200 malls and strip shopping centers in 20 states.

Mr. DeBartolo was born Anthony Paonessa in Youngstown on May 17, 1909. His mother married Michael DeBartolo when her son was two years old. He took his stepfather's name upon graduation from high school.

DEBARTOLO GRADUATED from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in civil engineering. He went into real estate, served two years in the military in World War II and formed the corporation in 1948. Two years later he built several specialty stores next to a free-standing supermarket in Boardman, Ohio, and the modern-day shopping center was born.

In addition to real estate, the DeBartolo Corp. owns three racetracks and at one time owned the NHL Pittsburgh Penguins. The corporation reported assets of more than \$500 million in 1970 and more than \$1 billion in 1980. Forbes magazine estimated his net worth at the time



"IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, DO IT FIRST CLASS."

—EDWARD J. DEBARTOLO SR.
1909-1994

of his death at \$850 million. The corporation wouldn't confirm a figure.

Mr. DeBartolo donated \$33 million to Notre Dame, the largest single donation in that university's history, and has DeBartolo Hall named for him there. A fine arts building at ND is being underwritten by the corporation, in honor of his wife, Marie Patricia, who died in 1991.

In addition to his son he is survived by a daughter, Marie Denise York, vice chairwoman of the DeBartolo Corp., three sisters and seven grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Francis.

EDDIE JR. QUICKLY turned around the 49ers. After suffering through 2-14 seasons in 1978-79, the Niners were Super Bowl champions in 1981. They've won more games than any other team since then and have four Super Bowl championships.

"When I met Mr. DeBartolo, the first thing he told me was, if you're going to do something, do it first class," McVay said.

Those words by which Edward J. DeBartolo Sr. certainly lived. ☺

The staff of 49ers Report expresses its sincere sympathy to 49ers owner Edward DeBartolo Jr., for the loss of his father, Edward Sr. Our thoughts are with the entire DeBartolo family.

—Ray Yannucci
Publisher

COACH'S CORNER



GEORGE SEIFERT

WIN STREAK NO SHOCK

Q. DID YOU THINK YOU WOULD GO ON A BIG WINNING STREAK AFTER LOSING 40-8 TO THE EAGLES (WEEK 5)?

A. I think, with each season in which I'm involved with this business, things don't surprise me. We're all dealing with very good athletes, extreme personalities and anything can (happen). Each day is volatile. Each practice and game is volatile. So many things can happen when you put this many people together. Now is one of the most critical times of all, when you get to the end. Now we're really going into the pressure time of the season, the playoffs. Everybody's ego is exposed. It's a pretty critical time. So basically, no, it doesn't surprise me.

Q. IS THE YARDAGE THE TEAM HAS SURRENDERED IN THE SECOND HALF OF RECENT GAMES A SIGN OF SOMETHING?

A. Coaches are concerned. At the same time, you have to realize the situation at the time. They (defensive backs) are human beings and they know they don't want to give up the big one. It's something we want to do better. I'm sure everybody's frustrated about it. I think there's no question we still have confidence in our defense and our defensive backs and the linemen and what we're doing. I feel very, very good about it and I think it's a group that can take us

a long way. Is it a concern? Yes it is. But is it one I would overreact to at this moment? No. Do I overreact to it sometimes? Yes.

Q. IS (THE DEFENSE PLAYING) A SOFT ZONE?

A. Sometimes we're playing man-to-man. On a couple of occasions, somebody gets beaten, a guy falls down, two guys bump into each other. It happens. Again, it's not as if some of the players on the other team don't have some skills.

Q. WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE SOFT ZONE?

A. Sometimes you wind up playing it that way. I think what people see is (the time) you just don't want to have somebody run by you. Defensive backs get to a point and they say, "I'm not going to be on TV with some guy running by me."

Q. HAS (DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR) RAY RHODES' PERSONALITY BEEN REFLECTED IN THE DEFENSE?

A. I think quite a bit. I think Ray's ability to work with the players and get them working together as a unit is pretty remarkable. He played, too, so he has an insight into the player's minds and what they're feeling at the time. I think that comes out. He's got them playing quite aggressively, really.

Q. HOW MUCH TINKERING AND FINE TUNNING ARE YOU GOING TO DO AT THIS STAGE OF THE SEASON?

A. I don't know if tinkering is the right word. I know each time you prepare for an opponent, you're preparing for

their specific defense or specific offense within the framework of our offense and defense. It's important to get better. Every now and then there is a lapse here and there that concerns you but it gives you something by which to motivate your players and on which to work with your players the next week.

Q. DID YOU HAVE A LAPSE AT ALL?

A. I think it was obvious by some of the tackling. We got to a point where we had a pretty good lead, and that affects people psychologically. It can be frustrating, but it's part of human nature and we're going to be able to deal with it just as long as everybody remembers the intensity with which we have to play at crunch time.

Q. HOW IS (GUARD) DERRICK DEESE IS PLAYING?

A. I can't say he surpassed (offensive line coach) Bobb McKittrick's expectations, but I have to admit he has surpassed mine. And he's a very proud guy and has worked very, very hard. I think everybody is proud of what he's done, and he certainly should be because he's done a fine job.

Q. ARE THE BEST ATHLETES NOW DEFENSIVE LINEMEN?

A. They were before I was coaching. You think of some of the great defensive lines that have been in this game and they were probably athletic eight or 10 years ago. I noticed that when we got Fred Dean (in 1981). That's when I noticed how important they were, watching Dean work against the Cowboys in his first game (Oct. 11, 1981).

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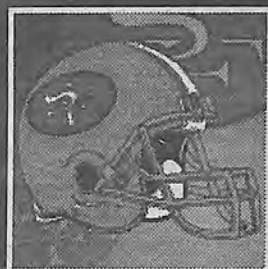


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49ERS end regular season 13-3

VIKINGS

win NFC Central with 10-6 record

STEVE YOUNG

12-of-13 passing for 94 yards

ELVIS GRBAC

18-of-23 passing for 184 yards

SEAN SALISBURY

16-of-34 passing for 156 yards

49ERS

4 turnovers

TED POPSON

career-high eight receptions for 80 yards

VIKINGS

102-49 rushing advantage

GARY PLUMMER

first interception of the season

By Kevin Lynch

MINNEAPOLIS — The sound you were hearing during the 49ers' 21-14 loss to the Vikings was of the entire season thrust into rewind.

The Niners, fearing injuries to key players, yanked most of the first-team offense in the middle of the second quarter and suddenly a game in December in Minnesota resembled a match in the sweltering heat of preseason.

"IT WAS WEIRD," guard Jesse Sapolu said. "We wanted to go in (to the playoffs) with a win. But (Coach) George (Seifert) was put between a rock and a hard place."

After saying the Niners would go after the Vikings full bore, Seifert succumbed and went with mass substitutions shortly after the game began.

"Emmitt Smith (Cowboys star) pulled a hamstring (in the 15th game of the season) without being touched," Sapolu added. "What if Jerry (Rice) blows out a knee? Those are the little things you have to worry about. I'm just glad this game is over."

The loss halted a 10-game winning streak, but had no bearing on the playoff picture for the Niners. The 49ers retained home-field advantage throughout the playoffs and have a bye in the first week because of their league-leading 13-3 record. The Niners' first playoff game will be Jan. 7 at Candlestick Park against either the Lions, Packers or Bears. Oh my!

THE VIKINGS, on the other hand, had more to gain in this one. By beating the Niners they won the NFC Central. They also won the right to host the Bears this weekend, a team they've defeated twice this season.

Both teams went into the game understaffed. Vikings quarterback Warren Moon didn't start because of a tender knee, which gave Sean Salisbury his first start since November of last year. Salisbury had been third-string quarterback all season. Vikings coach Denny Green bypassed Brad Johnson because of a poor practice week and a lack of experience.

The 49ers were without linebacker Lee Woodall, defensive tackle Dana Stubblefield, wide receiver John Taylor and tight end Brent Jones. All were resting minor injuries.

As for the Vikings, Salisbury pretty much held up his end of the bargain. His statistics weren't awesome, but he also avoided big gaffes. He completed 16-of-34 for 154 yards and one interception. He was bailed out by a defense that has converted more turnovers than it had in the previous three seasons combined.

It happened again in the first quarter. Ricky Watters was speared by safety Todd Scott for a 3-yard loss. In the process he coughed up the ball. Rookie cornerback

Dewayne Washington then scooped it up and scampered 16 yards untouched for a touchdown.

It was one of three 49ers fumbles, two courtesy of Watters. Backup quarterback Elvis Grbac threw an interception.

TURNOVERS bedeviled the Niners all night. They were on the verge of scoring in the second quarter when Grbac and Watters botched a handoff and the Vikings recovered at their own 35. The 49ers got the ball back with a fumble recovery of their own, got to the Vikings' 27 and faced a fourth-and-1. They elected to go for it against top-ranked running defense in the league. Despite a second effort, full-back William Floyd was denied.

The Vikings then drove down to put Fuad Reveiz in position to stick a 48-yard field goal for the 10-7 halftime lead.

The 49ers made a promising break from the gate in the third quarter. Grbac had the offense moving well, but the drive stalled at midfield when Grbac was sacked by defensive tackle John Randle, who caused Grbac to fumble. The Vikings recovered.

Reveiz was then set up for another field goal from 27 yards out. He nailed it to become the Vikes' all-time single season scoring leader, beating the 132 points scored by Chuck Foreman in 1975. Reveiz has been successful on 28 straight field goal tries. The NFL record is 29, held by John Carney of the Chargers.



QB Elvis Grbac played the entire second half and part of the second quarter

WORTH NOTING

YOUNG SETS MARK: Steve Young broke the NFL record for quarterback rating in a season. He completed 12 of 13 passes for 94 yards and a touchdown before being replaced in the second period. It boosted his quarterback rating to 112.8 to beat Joe Montana's 112.4 rating set in 1989 when he was with the Niners.

ELITE CLUB: The 49ers became only the fourth team in league history to score more than 500 points in a season. They scored 14 on Monday night and ended with 505 points. The 1961 Oilers (513 points), 1983 Dolphins (513) and 1983 Redskins (541) are the other four clubs that have passed 500.

RICE NOTES: Jerry Rice scored his 139th career touchdown on Monday night. His four catches gave him 112 for the season and tied him for second on the list of single-season receptions in league history. Only the Vikings' Cris Carter, who finished with 122 receptions this year, has more. Rice has 820 career receptions, second only to Art Monk in NFL history, and surpassed Steve Largent for No. 2 on the all-time list.

INJURIES: The 49ers accomplished their goal of staying injury free. Listed as probable are G-C Chris Dalman (back), C Bart Oates (knee), RB Dexter Carter (thigh), G Derrick Deese (knee), LB Gary Plummer (neck) and DE Tim Harris (ankle).

"IT WAS PRETTY OBVIOUS IT WAS THE LONGEST QUARTER OF MY COACHING EXPERIENCE, WITH THE SHOTS HE WAS TAKING."

— GEORGE SEIFERT ON WHY HE REPLACED QB STEVE YOUNG IN THE SECOND QUARTER

The Vikings increased their lead to 21-7 as running back Terry Allen vaulted over the top of the defense on a 1-yard touchdown. Allen ran in the two-point conversion. It was the only offensive touchdown of the night for the Vikes, despite a 49ers defense that didn't have two starters and went with mass substitutions in the second half.

THE 49ERS STAGED a comeback in the fourth frame despite only having one running back. Marc Logan and Derek Loville were inactive because of injury. Seifert didn't want to put Floyd and Watters back in the game, and Dexter Carter was ejected in the final period for throwing a punch at Scott.

That left the Niners with fullback Adam Walker and two tight ends.

"Adam usually plays fullback," Grbac said. "I had to tell him where to go on a lot of the halfback routes."

Grbac still managed to lead a six-play, 49-yard drive that ended in a touchdown pass to wide receiver Ed McCaffrey with 3:43 left. The second-string defense had to stop the first-string Vikings offense from getting a first down, but couldn't.

Seifert picked over the loss for bright spots.

"I feel bad," Seifert said, "like everybody in that (locker) room feels bad. It wasn't a smooth game. I thought Elvis moved the team well in the second half."

Grbac, only a second-year player, completed 18 of 23 passes for 184 yards a touchdown and an interception. His statistics were better than Salisbury's.

"IT WAS DIFFICULT to get into our game plan," Grbac said. "We had only two tight ends, and one back. It was a disappointing night for me."

Steve Young, as usual, put a positive spin on the loss.

"Maybe this is the perfect scenario," Young said. "We have that sick feeling of losing, something that we haven't had in two months or more. These guys are mad."

The 49ers could very well face the Vikes in a divisional playoff game.

"It would be a different game if everyone would have played," Jones said. "I guarantee you it will be different."

HOW THEY SCORED

FIRST QUARTER

VIKINGS — Dewayne Washington 16-yard fumble return (Fuad Reveiz kick). Time remaining: 10:08. VIKINGS 7-0

SECOND QUARTER

49ERS — Jerry Rice 5-yard pass from Steve Young (Doug Brien kick). Drive: 14 plays, 91 yards. Time of possession: 6:40. Time remaining: 14:51. Key plays: Rice 17 pass from Young; Rice 8 pass from Young on third-and-three; Floyd 9 pass from Young. TIED 7-7

VIKINGS — Reveiz 48-yard field goal. Drive: 6 plays, 19 yards. Time of possession: :52. Time remaining: :00. Key plays: Cris Carter 12 pass from Sean Salisbury. VIKINGS 10-7

THIRD QUARTER

VIKINGS — Reveiz 27-yard field goal. Drive: 7 plays, 22 yards. Time of possession: 2:57. Time of remaining: 6:52. Key play: Roy Barker-fumble recovery at 49ers' 31. VIKINGS 13-7

VIKINGS — Terry Allen 1-yard run (Allen run). Drive: 9 plays, 68 yards. Time of possession: 4:30. Time remaining: :09. Key play: Qadry Ismail 38 pass from Salisbury. VIKINGS 21-7

FOURTH QUARTER

49ERS — Ed McCaffrey 1-yard pass from Elvis Grbac (Brien kick). Drive: 6 plays, 49 yards. Time of possession: 2:56. Time remaining: 3:53. Key plays: Nate Singleton 15 pass from Grbac; McCaffrey 10 pass from Grbac; Ted Popson 15 pass from Grbac. VIKINGS 21-7

NEXT YEAR

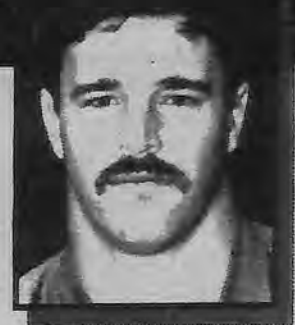
Schedules for next season won't come out until April, but the 49ers still know who they will play next year and where.

HOME : Falcons, Cougars, Rams, Saints, Bills, Vikings, Patriots and Giants

AWAY: Falcons, Cougars, Rams, Saints, Cowboys, Lions, Colts and Dolphins

FOGHORN PRESS PRESENTS 49ERS REPORT

PLAYER OF THE GAME



TED POPSON

Tight end Ted Popson got his first start, and he made the most of it with eight receptions for 80 yards. His effort was good enough to be named 49ers Report Player of the Game.

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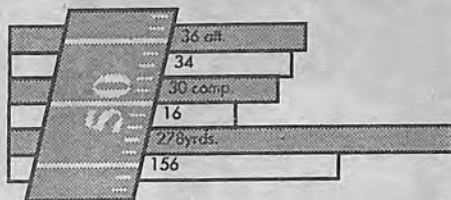
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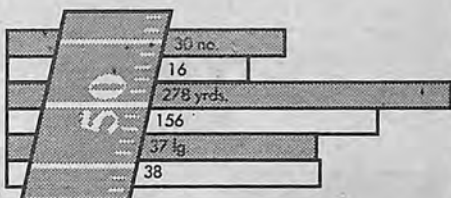
BY THE NUMBERS

GAME STATS

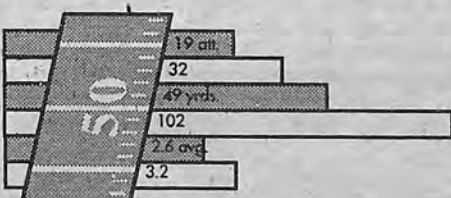
PASSING	Att	Comp	Yds	Sks/Yds	TD	Lg	Int
49ers							
Grbac	23	18	184	1/18	1	37	1
Young	13	12	94	2/14	1	17	0
Total	36	30	278	3/32	2	37	1
Vikings							
Salisbury	34	16	156	1/6	0	38	1
Total	34	16	156	1/6	0	38	1



RECEIVING	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
Popson	8	80	18	0
Singleton	6	74	37	0
McCaffrey	5	59	32	1
Rice	4	33	17	1
Walters	3	4	4	0
Carolan	2	10	6	0
Carter	1	9	9	0
Floyd	1	9	9	0
Totals	30	278	37	2
Vikings				
Reed	5	44	14	0
Lee	3	28	16	0
Carter	3	24	10	0
Jordan	2	13	9	0
Ismail	1	38	38	0
Palmer	1	8	8	0
Graham	1	1	1	0
Totals	16	156	38	0



RUSHING	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
49ers					
Walker	3	23	7.7	14	0
Walters	7	13	1.9	9	0
Floyd	3	7	2.3	6	0
Grbac	3	6	2.0	6	0
Young	1	6	6.0	6	0
Carter	2	-6	-3.0	1	0
Total	19	49	2.6	14	0
Vikings					
Graham	17	70	4.1	11	0
Allen	9	21	2.3	5	1
Smith	1	6	6.0	6	0
Lee	2	3	1.5	3	0
Salisbury	3	2	0.7	5	0
Total	32	102	3.2	11	1



INTERCEPTIONS	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
Plummer	1	1	1	0
Total	1	1	1	0
Vikings				
Glenn	1	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
Carter	4	71	26	0
Totals	4	71	26	0
Vikings				
Lee	1	26	26	0
Smith	1	25	25	0
Totals	2	51	26	0

PUNTING	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg
49ers						
Wilmsmeyer	6	237	39.5	0	1	53
Totals	6	237	39.5	0	1	53
Vikings						
Saxon	7	301	43.0	0	3	57
Totals	7	301	43.0	0	3	57

PUNT RETURNS	No	FC	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers					
Carter	4	0	24	25	0
Singleton	2	0	13	8	0
Totals	6	0	37	25	0
Vikings					
Palmer	4	0	29	11	0
Parker	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	5	0	29	11	0

TEAM STATISTICS	49ers	Vikings
Total First Downs	18	14
By Rushing	2	7
By Passing	1	0
Third Down Efficiency	6-13-46%	7-17-41%
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1-0%	0-0-0%
Total Net Yards	295	252
Total Offensive Plays	58	67
Avg. Gain Per Offensive Play	5.1	3.8
Net Yards Rushing	49	102
Total Rushing Plays	19	32
Avg. Gain Per Rushing Play	2.6	3.2
Net Yards Passing	246	150
Times Thrown/Yards Lost	3/32	1/6
Gross Yards Passing	278	156
Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.	36-30-1	34-16-1
Avg. Gain Per Passing Play	6.3	4.3
Punts/Average	6/39.5	7/43.0
Had Blocked	0	0
Yards on Punt Returns	37	29
Yards on Kickoff Returns	71	51
Yards on Interception Returns	1	0
Penalties/Yards	8/56	3/29
Fumbles/Lost	4/3	2/1
Touchdowns	2	2
Rushing	0	1
Passing	2	0
Returns	0	1
Extra points Made/Attempted	2/2	2/2
Kicking Made/Attempts	2/2	1/1
Passing Made/Attempts	0/0	0/0
Rushing Made/Attempts	0/0	1/1
Field Goals Made/Attempted	0/0	2/2
Time of Possession	30:06	29:54

SEASON STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	49ers	Opponents
Total First Downs	362	285
By Rushing	122	93
By Passing	211	182
By Penalty	30	20
Third Down Made/Att.	102/215	87/228
Third Down Efficiency	47.4	38.2
Fourth Down Made/Att.	11/18	11/18
Fourth Down Efficiency	61.1	61.1
Total Net Yards	6091	4846
Avg. Per Game	380.7	302.9
Total Offensive Plays	1037	997
Avg. Gain Per Offensive Play	5.9	4.9
Net Yards Rushing	1897	1338
Avg. Per Game	118.6	83.6
Total Rushing Plays	491	375
Net Yards Passing	4163	3508
Avg. Per Game	260.2	219.3
Sacks/Yards Lost	35/191	37/250
Gross Yards Passing	4362	3767
Att./Comp.	511/359	587/329
Pct. of Completions	70.3	56.0
Had Intercepted	11	23
Punts/Average	54/41.4	71/42.5
Penalties/Yards	95/810	96/815
Fumbles/Lost	25/13	25/12
Touchdowns	66	35
Rushing	23	16
Passing	37	15
Returns	6	4

SCORING	TDR	TDP	TDRt	PAT	FG	S	2pt	TP
Brien	0	0	0	60	15	0	0	105
Rice	2	13	0	0	0	0	1	92
Walters	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	66
Jones	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	56
Young	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	48
Floyd	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
Taylor	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	24
Sanders	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	18
Singleton	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
Logan	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
McCaffrey	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
Walker	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Hall	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
McDonald	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Carter	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Total	23	37	6	60	15	0	2	505
Opp. Total	16	15	4	23	15	2	7	296

RECEIVING	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Rice	112	1518	13.6	69	13
Walters	67	719	10.7	65	4
Jones	49	670	13.7	69	9
Taylor	42	531	12.6	35	4
Singleton	21	294	14.0	43	2
Floyd	19	146	7.7	15	0
Logan	16	97	6.1	15	1
Popson	13	142	10.9	20	0
McCaffrey	11	131	11.9	32	2
Carter	7	97	13.9	44	0
Carolan	2	10	5.0	8	0
Loville	2	26	13.0	19	0
Total	354	4362	12.2	69	37
Opp. Total	342	3757	11.0	90	15

RUSHING	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Walters	239	877	3.7	23	6
Floyd	85	305	3.6	26	4
Young	58	293	5.1	27	7
Logan	33	143	4.3	20	1
Loville	34	101	3.3	9	0
Rice	7	93	13.3	28	2
Walker	13	54	4.2	14	1
Carter	8	34	4.3	18	0
Grbac	13	1	0.1	6	0
Taylor	2	-2	-1.0	1	0
Total	491	1897	3.9	28	23
Opp. Total	375	1338	3.6	44	16

PASSING											
Name	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	Avg/Att	TD	%TD	Int	%Int	Lg	Lost/Att
Young	461	325	3969	70.5	8.6	35	7.6	10	2.2	69	31/155
Grbac	50	35	393	70.0	7.9	2	4.0	1	2.0	42	4/32
Total	511	359	4362	70.3	8.5	37	7.2	11	2.2	69	35/191
Opp. Total	587	329	3757	56.0	6.4	15	2.3	23	3.9	90	37/250

FIELD GOALS	Name	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Brien	1/1	4/4	5/6	5/8	0/1	15/20	
Total	1/1	4/4	5/6	5/8	0/1	15/20	
Opp. Total	0/0	8/8	4/4	2/5	1/4	15/21	

PUNTING	Name	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg
Wilmsmeyer	54	2238	41.4	3	18	60	
Total	54	2238	41.1	3	18	60	
Opp. Total	71	3020	42.5	8	17	65	

PUNT RETURNS	Name	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Carter	38	10	321	8.4	25	0	
Singleton	2	1	13	6.5	8	0	
Total	40	11	334	8.4	25	0	
Opp. Total	28	6	232	8.3	43	0	

KICKOFF RETURNS	Name	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Carter	48	1105	23.0	96	1	
Walker	6	82	13.7	19	0	
Loville	2	34	17.0	19	0	
Singleton	2	23	11.5	17	0	
McCaffrey	1	0	0.0	0	0	
Total	59	1244	21.1	96	1	
Opp. Total	89	1917	21.5	51	0	

Sacks: Stubblefield (8.5); B. Young (6.5); Jackson (4); R. Hall (4); Dent (2.5); Brown (2.5); Kelly (2.5); Wilson (2); Harris (2); Mann (1); Woodall (1); Thomas (1); Hanks (0.5);
Special Teams Tackles: Mitchell (15); Dodge (13); Wilson (10); Goss (10); Peterson (9); Loville (7); McCaffrey (7); Drakeford (6); Singleton (5); Brien (5); Walker (5); D. Hall (5); Woodall (3); Plummer (3); Hardy (2); Popson (2); Cook (1); Wilmsmeyer (1); Thomas (1); Mitchell (1);
Misc. Tackles: Deese (1); B. Young (1); Dalman (2); Rice (1); Loville (1); Jones (1); Walters (1); Dodge (1); Hanks (1); Barton (1); Brown (1)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS			
Name	Tackles	Assists	Total
Norton	75	11	86
Hanks	64	9	73
McDonald	68	5	73
Davis	68	4	72
Plummer	56	8	64
Woodall	43	15	58
B. Young	46	3	49
Jackson	38	2	40
Stubblefield	35	3	38
Sanders	34	2	36
D. Hall	24	9	33
Cook	24	1	25
D. Brown	18	3	21
R. Hall	10	3	13
Mann	11	1	12
Dent	8	0	8
Dodge	8	0	8
Drakeford	7	1	8
Kelly	5	1	6
Peterson	5	1	6
Mitchell	6	0	6
Harris	2	1	3
Thomas	3	0	3
Goss	2	1	3
Wilson	1	0	1
Logan	0	1	1
Ar. Smith	1	0	1

1994 NFL SCHEDULE

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

BENGALS 3-13

Sept. 4	Cleveland	20-28
Sept. 11	at San Diego	10-27
Sept. 18	New England	28-31
Sept. 25	at Houston	13-20
Oct. 2	Miami	7-23
Oct. 9	OPEN	
Oct. 16	at Pittsburgh	10-14
Oct. 23	at Cleveland	13-37
Oct. 30	Dallas	20-23
Nov. 6	at Seattle	20-17 O.T.
Nov. 13	Houston	34-31
Nov. 20	Indianapolis	13-17
Nov. 27	at Denver	13-15
Dec. 4	Pittsburgh	15-38
Dec. 11	at N.Y. Giants	20-27
Dec. 18	at Arizona	7-28
Dec. 24	Philadelphia	33-30

BROWNS 11-5

Sept. 4	at Cincinnati	28-20
Sept. 11	Pittsburgh	10-17
Sept. 18	Arizona	32-0
Sept. 25	at Indianapolis	21-14
Oct. 2	N.Y. Jets	27-7
Oct. 9	OPEN	
Oct. 16	at Houston	17-8
Oct. 23	Cincinnati	37-13
Oct. 30	at Denver	14-26
Nov. 6	New England	13-6
Nov. 13	at Philadelphia	26-7
Nov. 20	at Kansas City	13-20
Nov. 27	Houston	34-10
Dec. 4	N.Y. Giants	13-16
Dec. 11	at Dallas	19-14
Dec. 18	at Pittsburgh	7-17
Dec. 24	Seattle	35-9

FALCONS 7-9

Sept. 4	at Detroit	28-31 O.T.
Sept. 11	L.A. Rams	31-13
Sept. 18	Kansas City	10-30
Sept. 25	at Washington	27-20
Oct. 2	at L.A. Rams	8-5
Oct. 9	Tampa Bay	34-13
Oct. 16	San Francisco	3-42
Oct. 23	at L.A. Raiders	17-30
Oct. 30	OPEN	
Nov. 6	San Diego	10-9
Nov. 13	at New Orleans	32-33
Nov. 20	at Denver	28-32
Nov. 27	Philadelphia	28-21
Dec. 4	at San Francisco	14-50
Dec. 11	New Orleans	20-29
Dec. 18	Green Bay	17-21
Dec. 24	Arizona	10-6

RAMS 4-12

Sept. 4	Arizona	14-12
Sept. 11	at Atlanta	13-31
Sept. 18	San Francisco	19-34
Sept. 25	at Kansas City	16-0
Oct. 2	Atlanta	5-8
Oct. 9	at Green Bay	17-24
Oct. 16	N.Y. Giants	17-10
Oct. 23	at New Orleans	34-37
Oct. 30	OPEN	
Nov. 6	Denver	27-21
Nov. 13	L.A. Raiders	17-20
Nov. 20	at San Francisco	27-31
Nov. 27	at San Diego	17-31
Dec. 4	New Orleans	15-31
Dec. 11	at Tampa Bay	14-24
Dec. 18	at Chicago	13-27
Dec. 24	Washington	21-24

OILERS 2-14

Sept. 4	at Indianapolis	21-45
Sept. 11	at Dallas	17-20
Sept. 18	Buffalo	7-15
Sept. 25	Cincinnati	20-13
Oct. 2	at Pittsburgh	14-30
Oct. 9	OPEN	
Oct. 16	Cleveland	8-11
Oct. 23	at Philadelphia	6-21
Oct. 30	at L.A. Raiders	14-17
Nov. 6	Pittsburgh	9-12 O.T.
Nov. 13	at Cincinnati	31-34
Nov. 20	N.Y. Giants	10-13
Nov. 27	at Cleveland	10-34
Dec. 4	Arizona	12-30
Dec. 11	Seattle	14-16
Dec. 18	at Kansas City	9-31
Dec. 24	N.Y. Jets	24-10

STEELERS 12-4

Sept. 4	Dallas	9-26
Sept. 11	at Cleveland	17-10
Sept. 18	Indianapolis	31-21
Sept. 25	at Seattle	13-30
Oct. 2	Houston	30-14
Oct. 9	OPEN	
Oct. 16	Cincinnati	14-10
Oct. 23	at N.Y. Giants	10-6
Oct. 30	at Arizona	17-20
Nov. 6	at Houston	12-9 O.T.
Nov. 13	Buffalo	23-10
Nov. 20	Miami	16-13 O.T.
Nov. 27	at L.A. Raiders	21-3
Dec. 4	at Cincinnati	38-15
Dec. 11	Philadelphia	14-3
Dec. 18	Cleveland	17-7
Dec. 24	at San Diego	34-37

SAINTS 7-9

Sept. 4	Kansas City	17-30
Sept. 11	Washington	24-38
Sept. 18	at Tampa Bay	9-7
Sept. 25	at San Francisco	14-23
Oct. 2	N.Y. Giants	27-22
Oct. 9	at Chicago	7-17
Oct. 16	San Diego	22-36
Oct. 23	L.A. Rams	37-34
Oct. 30	OPEN	
Nov. 6	at Minnesota	20-21
Nov. 13	Atlanta	63-32
Nov. 20	at L.A. Raiders	19-24
Nov. 27	San Francisco	14-35
Dec. 4	at L.A. Rams	31-15
Dec. 11	at Atlanta	29-20
Dec. 18	Dallas	16-24
Dec. 24	at Denver	30-28

49ERS 13-3

Sept. 5	L.A. Raiders	44-14
Sept. 11	at Kansas City	17-24
Sept. 18	at L.A. Rams	34-19
Sept. 25	New Orleans	24-13
Oct. 2	Philadelphia	8-40
Oct. 9	at Detroit	27-21
Oct. 16	at Atlanta	42-3
Oct. 23	Tampa Bay	41-16
Oct. 30	OPEN	
Nov. 6	at Washington	37-22
Nov. 13	Dallas	21-14
Nov. 20	L.A. Rams	31-27
Nov. 27	at New Orleans	35-14
Dec. 4	Atlanta	50-14
Dec. 11	at San Diego	38-15
Dec. 18	Denver	42-19
Dec. 24	at Minnesota	14-21

BILLS 7-9

Sept. 4	N.Y. Jets	3-23
Sept. 11	at New England	38-35
Sept. 18	at Houston	15-7
Sept. 25	Denver	27-20
Oct. 2	at Chicago	13-20
Oct. 9	Miami	21-11
Oct. 16	Indianapolis	17-27
Oct. 23	OPEN	
Oct. 30	Kansas City	44-10
Nov. 6	at N.Y. Jets	14-22
Nov. 13	at Pittsburgh	10-23
Nov. 20	Green Bay	29-20
Nov. 27	at Detroit	21-35
Dec. 4	at Miami	42-31
Dec. 11	at Minnesota	17-21
Dec. 18	New England	17-41
Dec. 24	at Indianapolis	9-10

BRONCOS 7-9

Sept. 4	San Diego	34-37
Sept. 11	at N.Y. Jets	22-25 O.T.
Sept. 18	L.A. Raiders	16-48
Sept. 25	at Buffalo	20-27
Oct. 2	OPEN	
Oct. 9	at Seattle	16-9
Oct. 16	Kansas City	28-31
Oct. 23	at San Diego	20-15
Oct. 30	Cleveland	26-14
Nov. 6	at L.A. Rams	21-27
Nov. 13	Seattle	17-10
Nov. 20	Atlanta	32-28
Nov. 27	Cincinnati	15-13
Dec. 4	at Kansas City	20-17 O.T.
Dec. 11	at L.A. Raiders	13-23
Dec. 18	at San Francisco	42-19
Dec. 24	New Orleans	28-30

COWBOYS 12-4

Sept. 4	at Pittsburgh	29-6
Sept. 11	Houston	20-17
Sept. 18	Detroit	17-20 O.T.
Sept. 25	OPEN	
Oct. 2	at Washington	34-7
Oct. 9	Arizona	38-3
Oct. 16	Philadelphia	24-13
Oct. 23	at Arizona	28-21
Oct. 30	at Cincinnati	23-20
Nov. 6	N.Y. Giants	38-10
Nov. 13	at San Francisco	14-21
Nov. 20	Washington	31-7
Nov. 27	Green Bay	42-31
Dec. 4	at Philadelphia	31-19
Dec. 11	Cleveland	14-19
Dec. 18	at New Orleans	24-16
Dec. 24	at N.Y. Giants	10-15

BEARS 9-7

Sept. 4	Tampa Bay	21-9
Sept. 11	at Philadelphia	22-30
Sept. 18	at Minnesota	14-42
Sept. 25	at N.Y. Jets	19-7
Oct. 2	Buffalo	20-13
Oct. 9	New Orleans	17-7
Oct. 16	OPEN	
Oct. 23	at Detroit	16-21
Oct. 30	Green Bay	6-33
Nov. 6	at Tampa Bay	20-6
Nov. 13	at Miami	17-14
Nov. 20	Detroit	20-10
Nov. 27	at Arizona	19-16 O.T.
Dec. 4	at Minnesota	27-33 O.T.
Dec. 11	at Green Bay	3-40
Dec. 18	L.A. Rams	27-13
Dec. 24	New England	3-13

COLTS 8-8

Sept. 4	Houston	45-21
Sept. 11	at Tampa Bay	10-24
Sept. 18	at Pittsburgh	21-31
Sept. 25	Cleveland	14-21
Oct. 2	Seattle	17-15
Oct. 9	at N.Y. Jets	6-16
Oct. 16	at Buffalo	27-17
Oct. 23	Washington	27-41
Oct. 30	N.Y. Jets	28-25
Nov. 6	at Miami	21-22
Nov. 13	OPEN	
Nov. 20	at Cincinnati	17-13
Nov. 27	New England	10-12
Dec. 4	at Seattle	31-19
Dec. 11	at New England	13-28
Dec. 18	Miami	10-6
Dec. 24	Buffalo	10-9

CHIEFS 9-7

Sept. 4	at New Orleans	30-17
Sept. 11	San Francisco	24-17
Sept. 18	at Atlanta	30-10
Sept. 25	L.A. Rams	0-16
Oct. 2	OPEN	
Oct. 9	at San Diego	6-20
Oct. 16	at Denver	31-28
Oct. 23	Seattle	38-23
Oct. 30	at Buffalo	10-44
Nov. 6	L.A. Raiders	13-3
Nov. 13	San Diego	13-14
Nov. 20	Cleveland	20-13
Nov. 27	at Seattle	9-10
Dec. 4	Denver	17-20 O.T.
Dec. 11	at Miami	28-45
Dec. 18	Houston	31-9
Dec. 24	at L.A. Raiders	19-9

GIANTS 9-7

Sept. 4	Philadelphia	28-23
Sept. 11	at Arizona	20-17
Sept. 18	Washington	31-23
Sept. 25	OPEN	
Oct. 2	at New Orleans	22-27
Oct. 9	Minnesota	10-27
Oct. 16	at L.A. Rams	10-17
Oct. 23	Pittsburgh	6-10
Oct. 30	Detroit	25-28 O.T.
Nov. 6	at Dallas	10-38
Nov. 13	Arizona	9-10
Nov. 20	at Houston	13-10
Nov. 27	at Washington	21-19
Dec. 4	at Cleveland	16-13
Dec. 11	Cincinnati	27-20
Dec. 18	at Philadelphia	16-13
Dec. 24	Dallas	15-10

LIONS 9-7

Sept. 4	Atlanta	31-28 O.T.
Sept. 11	at Minnesota	3-10
Sept. 18	at Dallas	20-17 O.T.
Sept. 25	New England	17-23
Oct. 2	at Tampa Bay	14-24
Oct. 9	San Francisco	21-27
Oct. 16	OPEN	
Oct. 23	Chicago	21-16
Oct. 30	at N.Y. Giants	28-25 O.T.
Nov. 6	Green Bay	30-38
Nov. 13	Tampa Bay	14-9
Nov. 20	at Chicago	10-20
Nov. 27	Buffalo	35-21
Dec. 4	Green Bay	34-31
Dec. 11	at N.Y. Jets	18-7
Dec. 18	Minnesota	41-19
Dec. 24	at Miami	20-27

DOLPHINS 10-6

Sept. 4	New England	39-35
Sept. 11	Green Bay	24-14
Sept. 18	N.Y. Jets	28-14
Sept. 25	at Minnesota	35-38
Oct. 2	at Cincinnati	23-7
Oct. 9	at Buffalo	11-21
Oct. 16	L.A. Raiders	20-17 O.T.
Oct. 23	OPEN	
Oct. 30	at New England	23-3
Nov. 6	Indianapolis	22-21
Nov. 13	Chicago	14-17
Nov. 20	at Pittsburgh	13-16 O.T.
Nov. 27	at N.Y. Jets	28-24
Dec. 4	Buffalo	31-42
Dec. 11	Kansas City	45-28
Dec. 18	at Indianapolis	6-10
Dec. 24	Detroit	27-20

RAIDERS 9-7

Sept. 4	at San Francisco	14-44
Sept. 11	Seattle	9-38
Sept. 18	at Denver	48-16
Sept. 25	San Diego	24-26
Oct. 2	OPEN	
Oct. 9	at New England	21-17
Oct. 16	at Miami	17-20 O.T.
Oct. 23	Atlanta	30-17
Oct. 30	Houston	17-14
Nov. 6	at Kansas City	3-13
Nov. 13	at L.A. Rams	20-17
Nov. 20	New Orleans	24-19
Nov. 27	Pittsburgh	3-21
Dec. 4	at San Diego	24-17
Dec. 11	Denver	23-13
Dec. 18	at Houston	17-16
Dec. 24	Kansas City	9-19

EAGLES 7-9

Sept. 4	at N.Y. Giants	23-28
Sept. 11	Chicago	30-22
Sept. 18	Green Bay	13-7
Sept. 25	OPEN	
Oct. 2	at San Francisco	40-8
Oct. 9	Washington	21-17
Oct. 16	at Dallas	13-24
Oct. 23	Houston	21-6
Oct. 30	at Washington	31-29
Nov. 6	Arizona	17-7
Nov. 13	Cleveland	7-26
Nov. 20	at Arizona	6-12
Nov. 27	at Atlanta	19-31
Dec. 4	at Dallas	9-14
Dec. 11	at Pittsburgh	13-16
Dec. 18	N.Y. Giants	13-16
Dec. 24	at Cincinnati	30-33

PACKERS 9-7

Sept. 4	Minnesota	16-10
Sept. 11	Miami	14-24
Sept. 18	at Philadelphia	7-13
Sept. 25	Tampa Bay	30-3
Oct. 2	at New England	16-17
Oct. 9	L.A. Rams	24-17
Oct. 16	OPEN	
Oct. 23	at Minnesota	10-13 O.T.
Oct. 30	at Chicago	33-6
Nov. 6	at Detroit	38-30
Nov. 13	N.Y. Jets	17-10
Nov. 20	at Buffalo	20-29
Nov. 27	at Dallas	

Quick Kicks

ONE
ON
ONE

WITH BILL BUCKLEY

ONE-ON-ONE WITH CANDLESTICK PARK GROUNDSKEEPER BILL BUCKLEY

Q. TELEVISION COMMENTATOR JOHN MADDEN SAID THE FIELD GETS DAMP AT HIGH TIDE. IS THAT TRUE?

A. Absolutely not. John Madden is a liar. We have a survey every year and the field is 13 feet above sea level. I can show it to you. Beneath the field we have gravel, washed sand and a tarpaulin. There's no way the sea water could get through. There's a lot of rain and fog this time of year. That's why the field is wet.

Q. WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE HE KEEPS SAYING THAT?

A. I think the Oakland Coliseum might be below sea level. He remembers when he was coaching there (Raiders, 1969-78). I think he just assumes Candlestick is below sea level, also.

Q. WHY DOESN'T CANDLESTICK PARK DRAIN WELL?

A. The drainage system is old. They also bring a lot of big equipment in here to transfer the field from football to baseball. The pipe breaks with those heavy machines on it. We replace about 500 feet a year, but there's over three miles of pipe.

Q. ANY CHANCE THEY WILL REPLACE IT NOW THAT THE SUPER BOWL IS TO BE PLAYED HERE IN 1995?

A. I think so. We got a bid last year to have a whole

new system put in with pumps and everything. But there was only one company that bid on the job, because they have a patent. But the patent runs out this year.

Q. WHAT'S THE WORST CONDITION YOU HAVE EVER SEEN THE FIELD IN?

A. Everybody talks about the condition of the field for the NFC Championship game a couple of years ago. But I think the worst was the championship game against the Cowboys in 1982 — "The Catch" game. There was a Rolling Stones concert the weekend before, and the field was all torn up. You didn't go to that concert, did you? (I didn't). Good. Now I don't have to yell at you.

MONEY MAKERS

The 49ers' interception total is at an eight-year high. Why? Some might point to the addition of Deion Sanders or the inspired year by safety Merton Hanks. Maybe it's the fine year Eric Davis is having. It might be money.

FOR EVERY INTERCEPTION by a secondary starter, the other members are expected to give him \$100 each. Hanks was leading the team in pickoffs with seven through 15 games. Sanders was second with six. Tim McDonald had two and Eric Davis one.

ALL-ALLITERATIVE NINERS

Here's an all-time list of 49ers who's first and last names begin with the same letter:

QUARTERBACKS

Mike Moroski, Steve Spurrier

RUNNING BACKS

Doug DuBose, Don Durdan, Jim Jackson, Manfred Moore, Zigmond Zamlynsky

ENDS

Bryce Burnett, Bob Bruer, Darius Durham, Kent Kramer, Steve Smith, Wesley Walls

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Bruno Banducci, Brian Bollinger, Bruce Bosley, Bob Bryant, Derrick Deese, Garlin Gregory, Mike Magac, Rocky Rasley, Terry Tausch

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Bill Belk, Earl Edwards, Sam Silas

LINEBACKERS

Carter Campbell, Harold Hays, James Johnson, John Johnson, Marv Matuszak, Milt McColl, Matt Millen, Stan Sheriff, Terry Tautolo

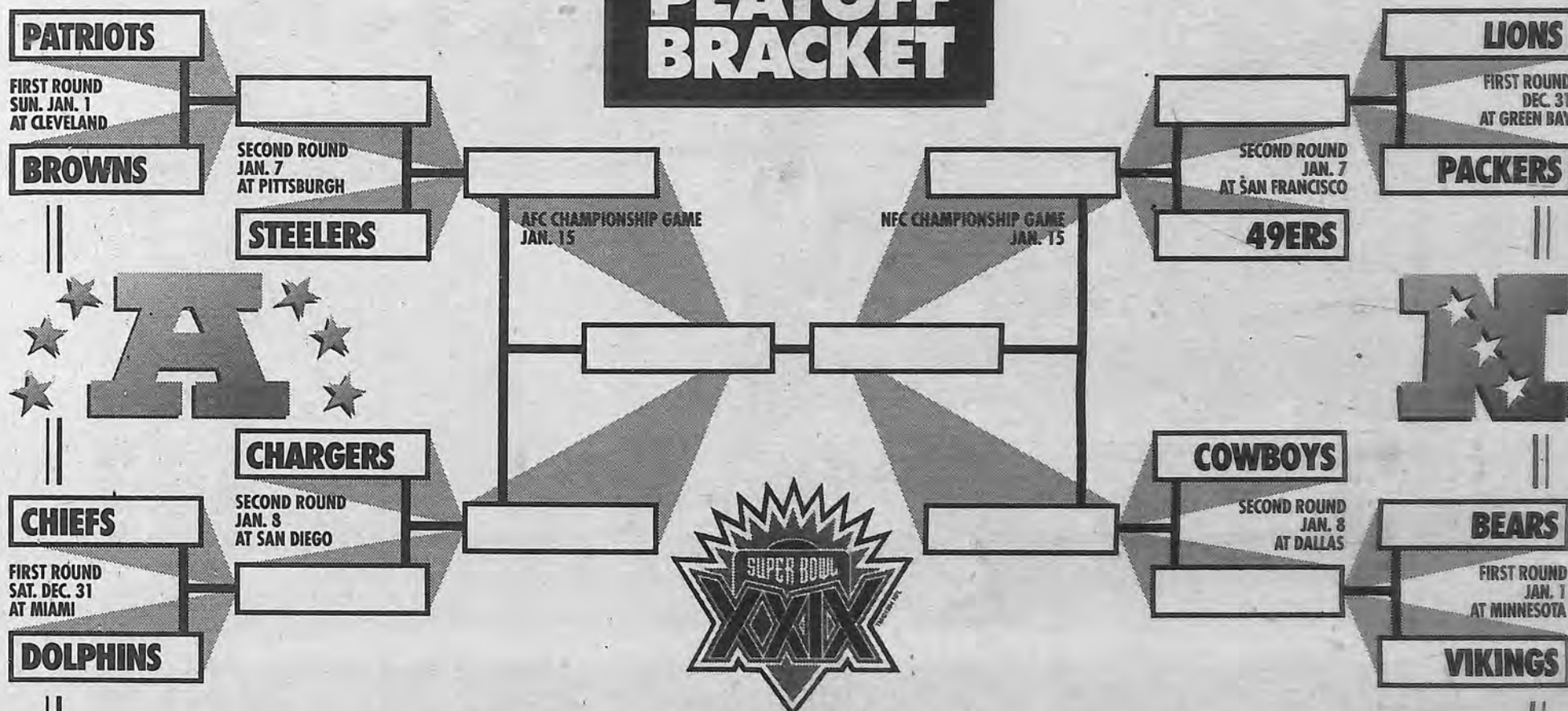
DEFENSIVE BACKS

Charles Cornelius, Chuck Crist, Hugo Hollas, Jimmy Johnson, Lenny Lyles, Mike McGruder, Melvin Morgan, Ray Rhodes, Tony Teresa

KICKER

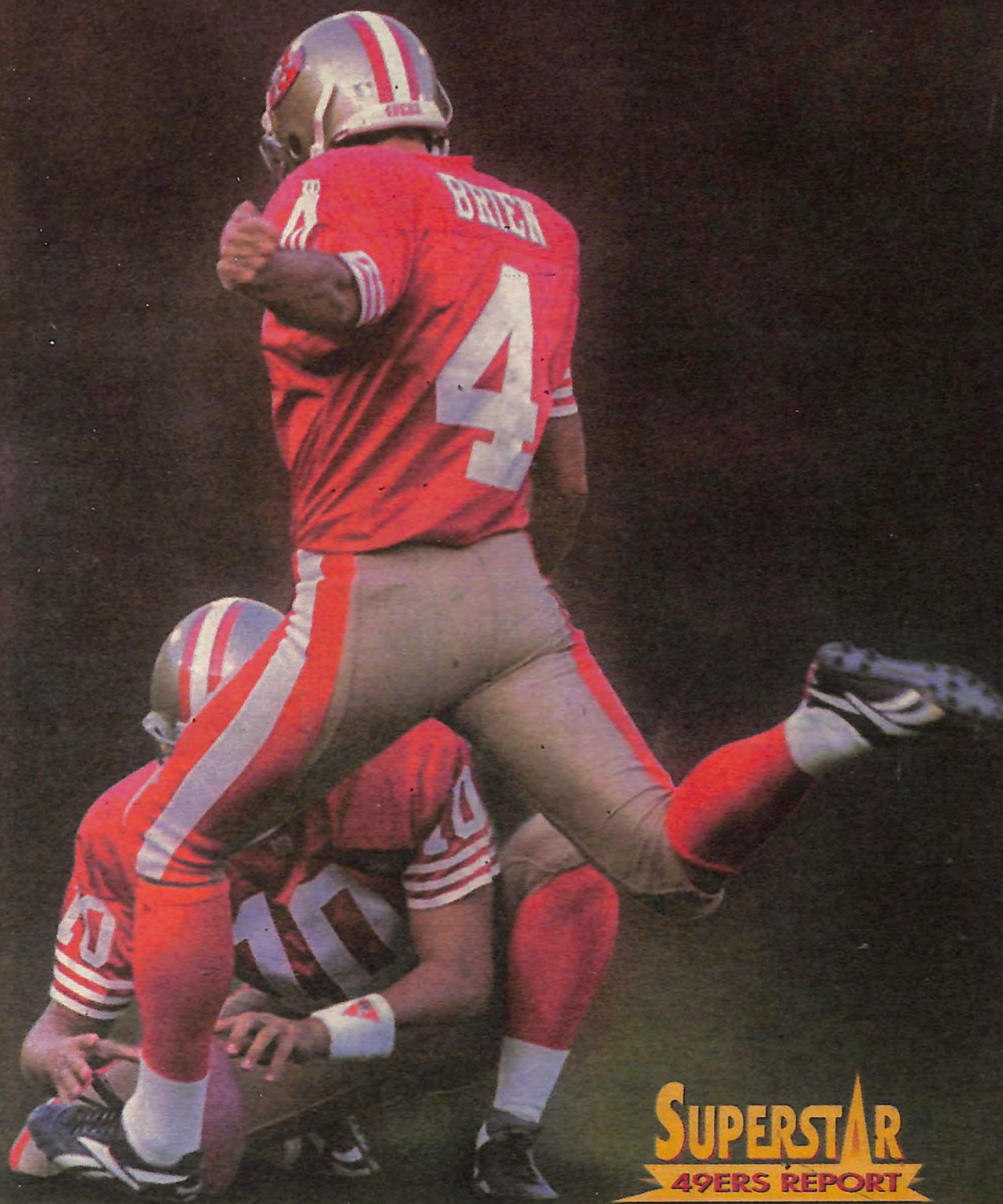
Gabbo Gavric

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D O U G B R I E N



SUPERSTAR
49ERS REPORT

**KICKING UP A
STORM**



It's

Not

Glamorous...

Klaus Wilmsmeyer



Alan Lowry

By Kevin Lynch

Dedrick Dodge pulled two crisp \$100s from his billfold. He grumbled, then extended them to Tyrone Drakeford.

Just as the cornerback was about to grab the bills, Dodge let them go. They fluttered to the floor of the locker room where a laughing Drakeford collected them.

It was a bet, but likely not on the latest heavyweight title bout or "Monday Night Football" game. It was more likely a wager between two key members of the 49ers' special teams. Bets between those who do the blocking and those who make the tackles on special teams occur constantly.

"Whatever it takes," said linebacker Antonio Goss, a past captain of the 49ers' special

teams and a player who has headed the units since being drafted in 1989. "You have to have something to pump you up."

Special teams core players receive the least amount of the limelight of anybody on the team. They are the overlooked little brother in the triad

that also includes offense and defense. Fans usually get up for more Cheese Whiz when the special teams take the field. Who wants to see an extra-point kick, or a punt into the end zone?

But special teams can win or lose a game just as easily as offenses and defenses can. Those who block and tackle on kicks and punts, the so-called "core players," struggle in anonymity.

Especially on the Niners. The media focus on their explosive offense first and the revamped defense after that. Special teams barely gets a mention. It's like the little brother who's not tall



Anthony Peterson



Dedrick Dodge



Adam Walker

enough to be seen at the ice cream store counter.

But there are many players who draw their checks just for what they do on special units. There are the obvious ones like kicker Doug Brien and punter Klaus Wilmsmeyer, but there's also Dodge, Drakeford, Goss, Kevin Mitchell, Ted Popson, Brett Carolan, Rhett Hall, Harry Boatwain, Chris Dalman, Ed McCaffrey, Marc Logan, Frank Pollack, Derek Loville, Nate Singleton, Mark Thomas, Anthony Peterson, Troy Wilson and Dana Hall.

Throughout the league, the 49ers have never been known as a special teams citadel. The Niners allot time at the beginning or end of practices for special teams, but it doesn't consume the time others spend on their units.

Also, their players are usually so taxed to remember complicated offensive and defensive assignments that special teams coach Alan Lowry can't overburden his core players with special-teams jargon.

"IT'S AN OFFENSIVE and defensive team," Goss said. "Special teams is going to take a backseat."

If the 49ers' coverage units and return teams are ranked even in the middle of league, they're doing well. Over the last few seasons the return units have been proficient. This season their average of 21.7 yards per kick return is about a half-yard above the league average. Their 8.7 average on punt returns is just below the NFL average.

The 49ers were one of the worst coverage teams in the league a month ago. On punt returns they yielded an average of 11.4 yards, 24th in the league. On kicks it was 22.8, 23rd overall.

Lowry looked at the statistics and at his talent-laden roster and realized things didn't add up. The club had the speed and tackling ability

to be one of the better units in the league. Lowry called a meeting.

"We sat down and kind of had a heart-to-heart about it," he said.

HE'S NOT THE KIND of coach who rants and raves. Instead of shaking the rafters by yelling, Lowry asked his units how they could make themselves better. They had their own answers and seemed to take Lowry's comments as a challenge.

The meeting occurred seven weeks ago, at the halfway point of the season. Since then the 49ers have shaved a full 2 yards off the

pointment of seeing no action from scrimmage they can focus on special teams. There's also a physical adjustment, too. Rookies usually haven't played on special teams for at least three years. Some, like Dodge, weren't even in the league last year. They have to reacquire themselves with the skills needed for special teams.

There is also an adjustment to the rhythm of special teams. Instead of being on the field play after play, special teamers come in for one play every five or 10 minutes and then they're out again. But when one of them goes in he must be motivated and ready for action.

Goss says if a guy isn't mentally ready to be called on at a moment's notice, he won't be as effective. That's where motivation comes in. The 49ers have devised tactics to make the special-teams players feel they're a part of the team.

Special-teams grades are posted on a large board in a hallway after each game so everyone can see who's performing well.

Also, the entire team dines together before every game. At that time a tape is shown of the best offensive, defensive and special-teams plays. The whole team watches the tape.

"YOU WANT TO BE on that highlight film," Dodge said. "If (you) made a good tackle behind the 20- or 25-yard line you'll get on the highlight film."

Special teams are also gaining an identity and a trust. "Everybody won't leave the field until everyone is coming off safe," Goss said.

Watching each other's backs to make sure no one gets mauled. With identity also comes pride.

"You can win or lose a game on special teams," Adam Walker said. "We're not going to be the ones who lose it."

With the offense and defense playing so well, special teams don't want to be left behind.

"We can make the big play right off the bat," Goss said. "That's the way you have to look at it."

...But Special Teams Must Be

Sharp As Offenses And Defenses

opponents' punt return average. They are now 16th in the league. On kick returns they've gone from 22.8 yards to 21.4 and to 14th in the NFL. Over the last seven games it would be hard to find a coverage unit that has been more effective.

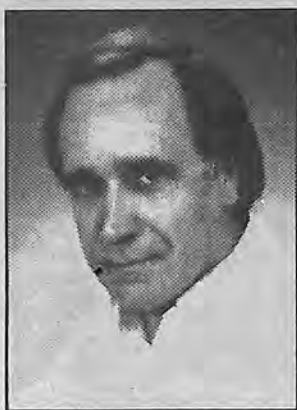
Coverage has improved for a number of reasons. The 49ers were once taught to look for keys, blocking schemes and so forth, while tearing down the field at full speed. Players are now told to look for keys, but if that's going to slow you down, forget it.

"I think sometimes we were trying too hard," Dodge said. "I tend to read too much, and then I end up getting knocked down."

IF PLAYERS CAN'T quickly discern where the return is headed, they're to stay in their lanes and stay on their feet. Rookies are accepting their special roles.

"The effort level has picked up," said Anthony Peterson, who recently broke his nose playing special teams. "You come from being a starter in college to playing on special teams only."

Peterson, a linebacker, said once players get over the disap-



DICK
DRAPER

Who's the 49ers' Rookie of the Year?

Tough call. It's like parents picking their favorite child — or a child picking his favorite parent. But somebody has to decide, and it's not going to be me.

Oops. Sorry. I almost copped out there for a second. Time for serious scrutiny, agonizingly difficult analyses — or, ummm, maybe picking names out of a football helmet.

When it comes to the draft, recent ones by the Niners have been like wind whistling down an empty chimney. There has been lots of noise and commotion, but very little substance — such as the 1992 fiasco, with only substitutes Dana Hall and Mark Thomas remaining from that squad.

This season? A bonanza, with four first-timers in the starting lineup — defensive tackle Bryant Young, fullback William Floyd, linebacker Lee Woodall and kicker Doug Brien.

FARMERS WOULD CALL this a bountiful harvest, especially when you add in special-teams stars Kevin Mitchell, Anthony Peterson and Tyrone Drakeford, who have lots of promise.

Tabbing the best of the best, however, can put you in a pickle. Call it Brine Time.

Three (Young, Floyd and Woodall) head the list. They're rookies who've made immediate and significant impacts, remarkable considering the stupendous power and overall talent of this 49ers team, perhaps one of the most potent on both sides of the ball in franchise history.

Support for Young is heavy. From Day One, Coach George Seifert called the Notre Dame All-American a man of superior intelligence and physicality, kind of a rare mix of Da Vinci and Goliath. He wasn't far wrong.

YOUNG HAD SIX SACKS, 43 tackles and four passes defensed through 15 games, yet those statistics hardly tell the whole story. Relentlessness is his credo.

He's constantly roaming the enemy's backfield, always pressuring — a human neutron bomb obliterating everything he touches. You get the feeling this guy was NEVER a rookie in his life. Anywhere.

Young's one of the quiet 49ers — a stick-to-business man who won't high-step, only step up to a higher level. He wastes no time flapping his tongue and uses no wasted motions on the field. His partner, Dana Stubblefield, predicts stardom for the NFL freshman, and it takes one to know one.

Stubby, the 49ers' other defensive tackle, earned a Pro Bowl berth in only his second season. He and the rook have blended into a two-man wrecking company with Stubblefield the CEO (Chief Eliminator of the Opposition) and Young vice president in charge of cleanup — as in leave no survivors.

"Look for Bryant to get Defensive Rookie of the Year," Stubblefield said. "Look for him to follow in my footsteps, and maybe some day he and I will be in the Pro Bowl at the same time. I had a great season and he's come in and done the same."

FLOYD? He's a media maven, no doubt. Loves to talk. But these are not empty words. The man who unabashedly calls himself the "best fullback in the NFL, bar none" has backed up his chatter, gaining more than 300 yards this

season, mostly on those difficult short-yardage plays.

The rookie from Florida State's very first NFL play was a catch-and-run. Floyd has demonstrated soft hands plus Richter-scale forearms that have left their imprint on many a would-be tackler. A nonpareil blocker. A first-class fanny-dumper.


His future? Considering his present, and his presence, his potential seems limitless.

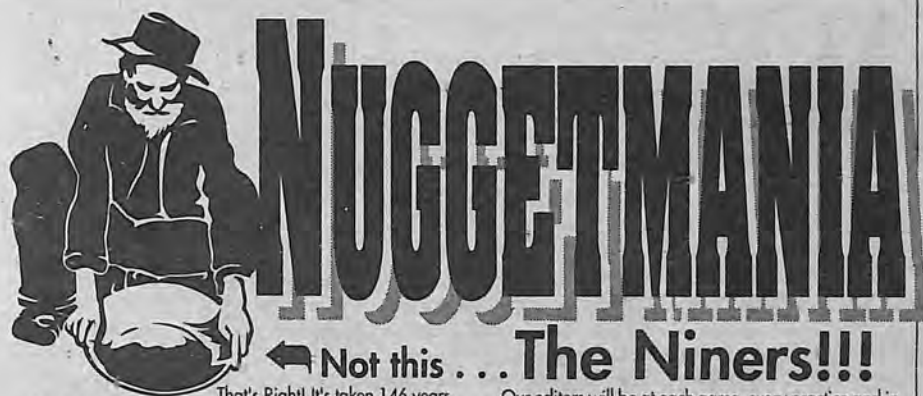
As for Woodall, he made the transition from tiny West Chester State University to a you-never-know sixth-round draft pick into a steady defensive performer on one of the best 49ers defensive squads ever. No small leap for man here, but heading to the 49ers' final regular-season game Woodall had been on 64 tackles, including 47 solo jobs, plus one sack for a 6-yard loss. Perhaps not as spectacular as Young but the man with the Evander Holyfield face and that raw, punishing power is always there, always making plays.

BRIEN, TOO, has his backers, and he deserves an honorable mention as the 49ers' top rookie. He hasn't been perfect, but no one expected him to be, and the former Berkeley star will only get better.

But Young and Floyd, especially, should earn some post-season honor for rookies, for they've been mentioned in the same breath as all the free-agent stars who've helped make this club what it is.

That's the surprising thing. They're in the same league, all right, as the Plummers and Jacksons, but they're also in the same league, as in peers and equals.

Now the real dilemma. Who gets the nod as 49ers Rookie of the Year? For his versatility and effervescent style, I'll go with Floyd. 



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9ER NUGGETS



SHANAHAN BEING COURTED

Don't expect offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan to be back with the 49ers next season.

SHANAHAN'S ONE of the hottest head-coach prospects in the league and there are liable to be plenty of vacancies in this off-season.

Shanahan isn't allowed to talk to other teams until the season ends (under league rules). But rumors are fluttering like snowflakes this holiday season. The New York Times reported Shanahan should be a candidate for the Eagles' job when it becomes available as expected.


Shanahan has been courted before, by the Broncos in 1992 and

the expansion Jacksonville Jaguars last year. Still, Shanahan, one of the better-paid assistants in the NFL, is going to be choosy.

"I think my job is better than 15-18 head coaching jobs in the NFL," he said.

THE 49ERS WOULD dearly like to hold onto him. They've already broken club records for points scored and touchdowns in one season.

What might keep Shanahan with the Niners is the theory that he's the logical successor to Head Coach George Seifert.

"There's so much speculation this time of year," Shanahan said. "You have to let it go in one ear, and out the other." 



Mike Shanahan

INJURIES

Defensive end Richard Dent is hoping to be available for the playoffs. Dent tore his right medial collateral ligament in the Chiefs' game Sept. 11.

He has gamely tried to return ever since. The first target date was the Cowboys game on Nov. 13. He later hoped to be back against the Chargers on Dec. 11. The last target date was the final game of the regular season, against the Vikings.

Dent said he could've played in the Dec. 17 game against the Broncos.

DENT SPENDS half his practice time in individual drills with strength and conditioning coach Jerry Attaway, and the other half practicing with the rest of the team.

Derek Loville emerged from the Broncos game with a broken right hand, apparently while playing special teams. Loville might be able to play in the first playoff game on the weekend of Jan. 7-8.

Guard Ralph Tamm practiced for the first time since September. He's trying to ready himself for the playoffs. Tamm would be relegated to backup role behind Derrick Deese, the man who replaced him when he aggravated a foot injury.

"AS I TOLD (Tamm)," Head Coach George Seifert said, "we're not going to play him for old time's sake."

Tamm has two weeks to win back his starting job.



MCDONALD HONORED

Safety Tim McDonald won the annual Gary Niver Award, bestowed on the 49ers player who displays the most professionalism and class to the local press corps.

"No comment," McDonald said as he took the podium after hearing he had won.

HE WAS KIDDING, of course. McDonald is almost always available for a thoughtful response to any question no matter what the situation.

"I realize it's kind of tough for a lot of guys to go through a lot of media requests for interviews," McDonald said, "especially after a tough game or during a tough week. But one of the things I've always prided myself on was to be able to stand tall when things go bad and to stay humble when things are going well. I think that's very important and I talk to all my guys in the secondary about it."

Gary Niver, who died in January of 1993, was a reporter for the San Mateo Times. Center Jesse Sapolu was last year's inaugural winner.

FOR CHRISTMAS

National Football League Players Association representative Ralph Tamm collected donations from players to purchase toys for disadvantaged kids. The minimum donation was \$50. The maximum was \$350, given by quarterback Steve Young.

The 49ers, including Young, also helped distribute the gifts at the Hamilton House for troubled families.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

The 49ers played on Christmas Day last year and had to report to the team's hotel on Christmas Eve.

Most players apparently spent the night on the telephones with their families. The 49ers traveled to Minneapolis on Christmas Day this year, but at least had Christmas Eve with their families.

CEREMONY FOR EDWARD DEBARTOLO SR.

The 49ers' players, coaches and staff held a 45-minute ceremony for Edward J. DeBartolo Sr., father of Niners owner Eddie DeBartolo. Mr. DeBartolo died on Dec. 19 at the age of 85 from complications of pneumonia.

Quarterback Steve Young spoke at the ceremony. Keena Turner an ex-49ers linebacker, read a letter from former Niners cornerback and assistant coach Eric Wright. The Rev. Peter Armstrong and offensive tackle Steve Wallace, in place of chaplain Pat Richie, conducted the ceremony.

Richie was in his home state of Minnesota, visiting relatives, and was unavailable.

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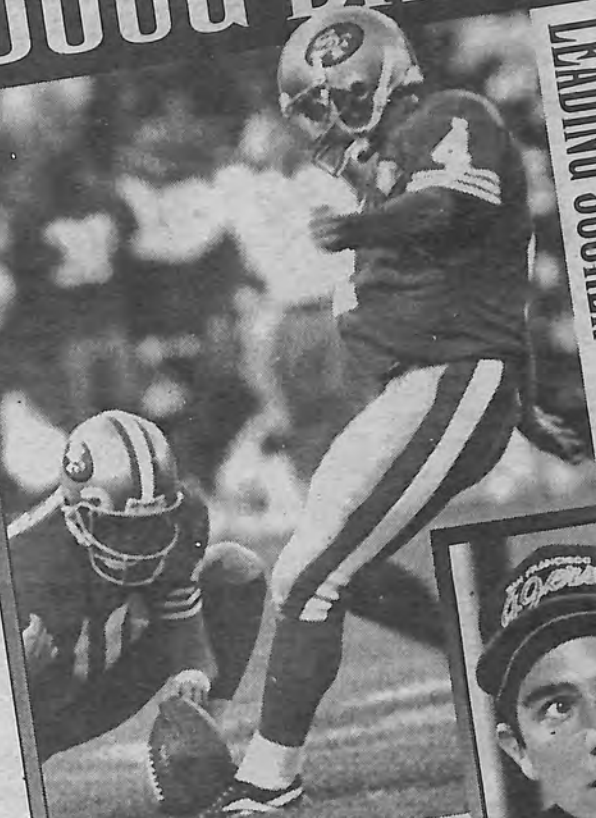
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PAT	FG	TP
60	15	105



JERRY RICE

LEADING RECEIVER

49ERS
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1994 FINAL REGULAR SEASON STATS - RECEIVING

No.	YDS	AVG.	LG	TD
112	1518	13.6	69	13



STEVE YOUNG

LEADING PASSER

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REPORT

1994 FINAL REGULAR SEASON STATS - PASSING

ATT	COMP	YDS	PCT	TD	INT	LG
461	325	3969	70.5	35	10	69



RICKY WATTERS

LEADING RUSHER

49ERS
REPORT

1994 FINAL REGULAR SEASON STATS - RUSHING

ATT	YDS	AVG.	LG	TD
239	877	3.7	23	6



MERTON HANKS



MOST INTERCEPTIONS



49ERS REPORT

1994 FINAL REGULAR SEASON STATS - INTERCEPTIONS

No.	Yards	Avg.
7	93	13.3

DANA STURRLEFIELD



MOST SACKS



49ERS REPORT

1994 FINAL REGULAR SEASON STATS - SACKS

SACKS
8.5

KLAUS WILMSMEYER



PUNTER

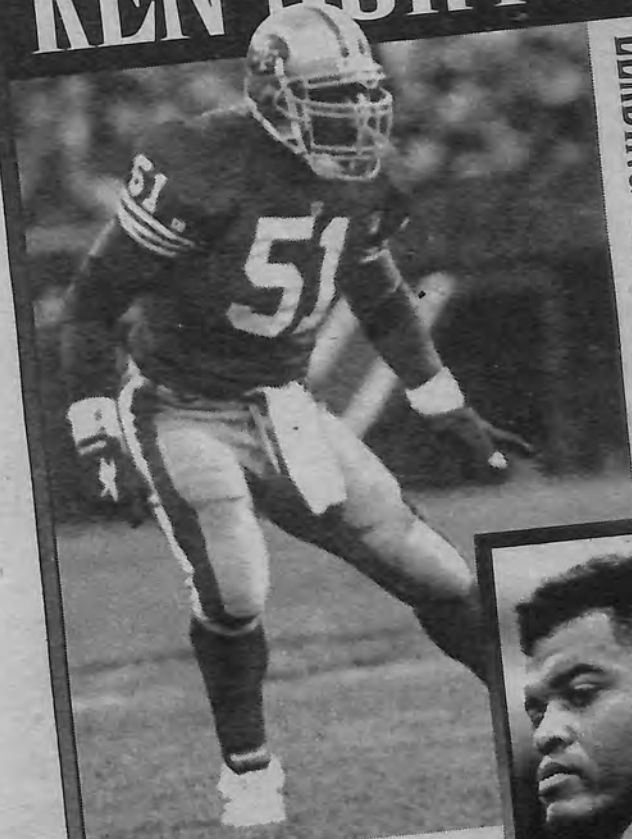


49ERS REPORT

1994 FINAL REGULAR SEASON STATS - PUNTING

No.	YDS	AVG	IN 20	LG
54	2238	41.4	18	60

KEN NORTON



LEADING TACKLER



49ERS REPORT

1994 FINAL REGULAR SEASON STATS - TACKLES

TACKLES	ASSISTS	TOTAL
75	11	86



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Season Record

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134-90⁶⁻⁹

129-95⁴⁻¹¹

139-85⁵⁻¹⁰

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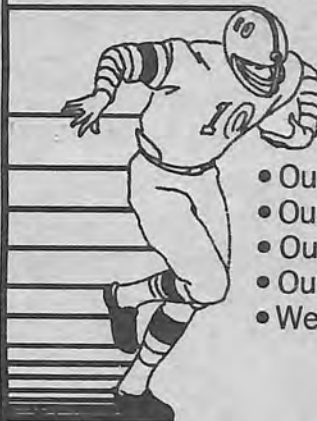
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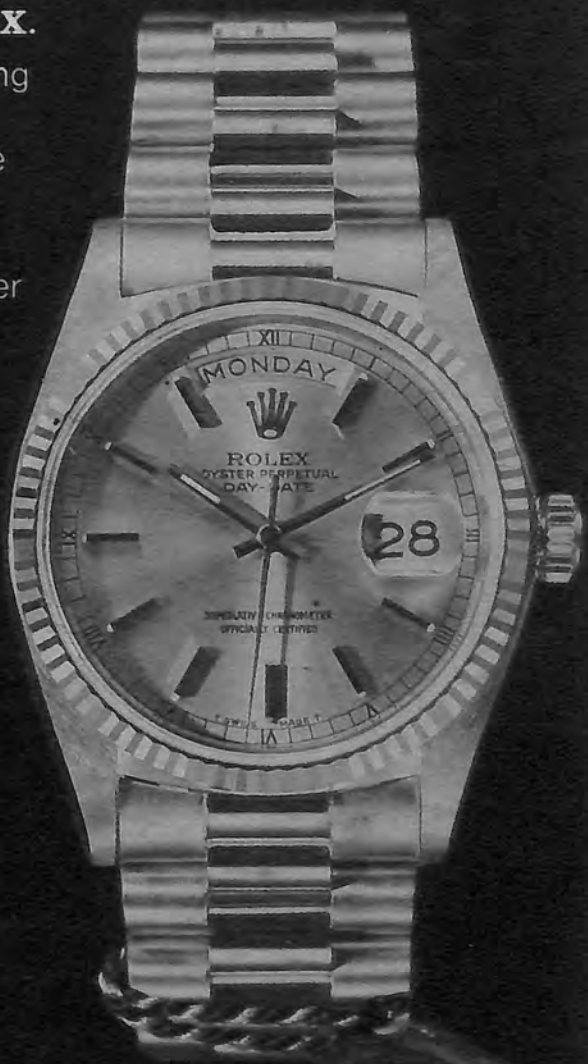
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